

What is claimed is:

1. An image management system which comprises image management terminals and an image management server and wherein electronized image data are managed using management information for management of said image data,

said image management terminals provided with switchover control means for sending to said image management server said image data and said management information according to instructions from a user, said image data and said management information stored in said image management terminals, and

said image management server provided with switchover image registration means for registering with specific storage means said image data and said management information acquired from said image management terminals.

2. The image management system of claim 1 wherein

the management information stored in said image management terminal has sharing attribute information indicating whether image data corresponding to said management information should sent to the image management server, and

said switchover control means sends said image data and management information on the basis of said sharing attribute information.

3. The image management system of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said image management terminal is provided with:

storage place judging means for judging in which image data selected by the user is stored, in said image management server or in the

image management terminal, and

terminal data control means for forwarding or executing a control instruction for said selected image data on the basis of the judgement by the storage place judging means.

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4. An image management system which comprises image management terminals and an image management server and wherein electronized image data are managed using management information for management of said image data,

said image management terminals storing said image data and said management information for the user operating said image management terminal alone to utilize,

said image management server storing said image data and said management information for a plurality of users to share, and

said image management terminal having terminal data control means for management of both the image data stored in the image management terminals and the image data stored in the image management server.

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5. The image management system of claim 4 wherein in displaying said image data, said image management terminal distinguishably displays the image data stored in said image management server and the image data stored in said image management terminals.

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6. The image management system of claim 5 wherein for said distinguishable display, different colors are used on the background area of said image data on the display screen.

7. The image management system of claim 5 wherein for said distinguishable display, different patterns are used on the background area of said image data on the display screen.

5 8. The image management system of claim 1 or claim 4 wherein said image management server further comprises:

renewal information preparation means for preparing renewal information showing the details of a renewal when the image data or management information stored in said image management server is given an addition or renewed, and

mail sending means for sending said renewal information to specific users by electronic mail.

9. The image management system of claim 8 wherein said image management server further holds information on the users classified into groups who use said image management server, and

said mail sending means sends said electronic mail to the users only who belong to the same group as the user who revised said image data or management information.

10. The image management system of claim 9 wherein said renewal information preparation means further prepares a renewal information list of renewals made for a specific period of time, and

said mail sending means sends said renewal information list.

11. The image management system of claim 1 or claim 4 wherein said management information includes at least one of the following:

key word information of image data corresponding to said

management information,

link information to image data related to the image data corresponding to said management information,

text information obtained by optical character recognition (OCR) of image data corresponding to said management information,

layout information showing the kind and position of unit information included in image data corresponding to said management information,

turning angle information showing the turning angle of said image data when displaying or printing out image data corresponding to said management information, or

folder information for classifying and keeping image data corresponding to said management information.

12. A image management terminal wherein electronized image data are managed using management information for management of said image data, said terminal provided with switchover control means for sending to a specific image management server said image data and said management information according to instructions from the user, said image data and management information being stored.

13. The image management terminal of claim 12 wherein said management information includes sharing attribute information indicating whether the image data corresponding to said management information should sent to said image management server, and

said switchover control means sends said image data and management information on the basis of said sharing attribute information.

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5 14. The image management terminal of claim 12 or claim 13 which comprises storage place judging means for judging in which the image data selected by the user is stored, in the image management server or in the image management terminal, and terminal data control means for forwarding or executing a control instruction for said selected image data according to the judgement by said storage place judging means.

10 15. An image management server for management of electronized image data using management information for management of said image data, said server comprising switchover image registration means for registering with specific storage means said image data and said management information acquired from a specific image management terminal.

15 16. An image management method for management of electronized image data using management information for management of said image data, said method comprising:

20 switchover step for sending to a specific image management server said image data and said management information stored in a specific image management terminal according to instructions from the user, and

switchover image registration step for registering with specific storage means said image data and said management information acquired from said image management terminal.

25 17. The image management method of claim 16 where said switchover step sends said image data and said management information on the basis of the sharing attribute information indicating whether the

image data corresponding to said management information can be sent to said image management server, said sharing attribute information included in said management information.

5 18. A program for having an image management terminal – for management of electronized image data using management information for management of said image data – execute:

instruction receiving step for accepting instructions of the users, and

10 switchover step for sending to a specific image management server said image data and said management information stored in said image management terminal on the basis of said instruction receiving step.

15 19. The program of claim 18 wherein said switchover step further sends said image data and said management information on the basis of the sharing attribute information indicating whether the image data corresponding to said management information should sent to said image management server, said sharing attribute information included in said management information.

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